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 **USA TODAY NETWORK**

Accusation and denial at hearing



Accuser certain while nominee rebuts allegations

Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh and Christine Blasey Ford, the California professor who accuses him of sexually assaulting her while both were in high school, both offered emotional testimony before the Judiciary Committee Thursday.

Ford offered no major new revelations but politely and firmly repeated her allegations. Kavanaugh then offered a vigorous denial, testifying that allegations by her and others have “totally and permanently destroyed” his family and his reputation.

Ford insisted she was “100 percent” certain Kavanaugh was the one who assaulted her. Kavanaugh said he was innocent and called his confirmation process “a national disgrace.”

See coverage on Page 1B



“I believed he was going to rape me.”

Christine Blasey Ford
Left, testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee Thursday



“I have never done this to her or to anyone.”

Brett Kavanaugh
Right, testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee Thursday



AP PHOTOS

Taxpayers on hook for \$1.5B

Company was going to provide high-speed internet to the state

Alfred Miller
Louisville Courier Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kentucky residents in 2014 were told a system to deliver high-speed internet to every corner of the commonwealth would cost the state only \$30 million.

Four years later, taxpayers are on the hook for \$1.5 billion for a project years from completion, 35 percent over-budget and counting on “speculative” revenues, according to a state audit report released Thursday.

“When KentuckyWired was announced by the prior administration (of Democrat Gov. Steve Beshear), Kentuckians were told they would only be responsible for a \$30 million investment approved by the General Assembly in 2014, and the majority of funding would come from private investment,” state Auditor Mike Harmon said in a statement Thursday.

Instead, the burden of the public-private partnership Bond Buyer magazine once hailed as the “deal of the year” falls squarely on the public’s shoulders, with taxpayers responsible for 93 percent of the total cost.

“Misled does really not do justice for this bait-and-switch on the taxpayers,” Harmon told reporters on Monday.

When announced in August 2015, the project was heralded as the “key catalyst” of “profound and sweeping” growth in jobs, health access and education, especially in Kentucky’s rural eastern counties, a region hit hard by

See TAXPAYERS, Page 5A

Most rivalries pale compared to the St. X and Trinity feud

Jason Frakes
Louisville Courier Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Bob Beatty was born and raised in Missouri, but he’s lived in Louisville long enough to understand one of the city’s long-running peculiarities.

And the Trinity High School football coach believes it answers a lot about

why his school’s football rivalry with St. Xavier is so important to so many people.

“If you’re raised in Louisville, Kentucky, that’s your culture,” Beatty said. “There’s the hot brown. There’s the Derby. There’s the Ohio Valley. And there’s Trinity-St. X.

See RIVALRY, Page 11A

Game of the week

Who: Trinity (1-5) vs. St. Xavier (3-2)

When: 8 p.m. Friday

Where: Cardinal Stadium

Tickets: \$18 for Brown & Williamson Club, \$12 for reserved and \$10 for general admission. Available Friday from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at St. X and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Trinity. Tickets on sale at Cardinal Stadium Friday. Gates open at 6:30 p.m. Parking lots open at 3:30 p.m.

Radio: WGTK 970-AM (Trinity broadcast) and WKRD 790-AM (St. X broadcast)



Trinity’s Rodjay Burns scored a touchdown in the 2015 meeting.

JOHN SOMMERS II/SPECIAL TO COURIER JOURNAL

Abuse of power?

Kentucky clerks side with election officials critical of Alison Grimes. **Metro, 3A**

Trunk brings back memories

Brother remembered after discovery of belongings. **Louisville life, 1D**

Weather

High 74° ■ Low 55°
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